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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9005  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - BUSH MEETING WITH IRAQI PRIME  
MINISTER AND CIS SUMMIT IN MINSK - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Wednesday morning include the failure Tuesday by the US, China, and North Korea to come up with a specific date for a resumption of the six-party talks.

1."US-Iraq Summit to Focus on How to Solicit Support from Neighbors" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri's Washington correspondent wrote (11/29): "A primary focus of President Bush's scheduled meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki in Amman will be whether they can find a way to elicit cooperation from Iran and Syria, who have influence over the militias in Iraq.... National Security Adviser Hadley has indicated that in his meeting with Bush, Maliki is likely to take up the possibility of his government's direct negotiations with Tehran and Damascus. The Maliki administration has approached the two neighbors regarding reining in the rivalry between Shiites and Sunnis. Attention is being paid to whether Bush and Maliki can come up with a roadmap for a four-way dialogue among the US, Iraq, Iran, and Syria."

2. "CIS Summit Fails to Check NATO" A correspondent for the business-oriented Nikkei reported from Minsk (11/29): "The Commonwealth of Independent States organized a summit in Minsk to coincide with the NATO summit being held in Riga. The CIS confab was intended to reinforce solidarity among member states, but it has ended up revealing only internal discord. An increasing number of CIS members have pro-Western views, while Russia is raising the price of natural gas it supplies its neighbors."

SCHIEFFER